

**CITY OF CHICOPEE
CONSERVATION COMMISSION**

Minutes of Meeting

April 5, 2017

Pursuant to Mass. General Law Ch. 131, Section 40 and the Chicopee Wetland Ordinance Ch. 272, the Chicopee Conservation Commission held a public hearing on **Wednesday, April 5, 2017 at 6:15 PM, City Council Chambers, 4th Floor, City Hall.**

James Reidy opened the meeting at 6:15 PM and announced that the meeting was being recorded.

Conservation Commission attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
James Reidy, Chair	X		
Jessica Dzwonkoski	X		
Celeste Donovan	X		
Charles Payne	X		
Nathan Moreau	X		

Planning/Conservation Staff attendance:

Member	Present	Absent	Excused
Lee Pouliot, Director	X		
James Dawson, Development Manager	X		
Jack Benjamin, Assistant Director			X

Item 1: RDA for work within existing utility ROW in Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone and Terrace Escarpment Soils. Work includes the removal of 12 utility pole structures followed by the installation of 5 new structures and replacement of 7 existing structures. Location: Off End and Frank Sts., off Hearthstone Terr. and Brays St. Applicant: Chicopee Electric Light, c/o Dan Maciolek, 725 Front St. Chicopee, MA 01020

Notes: Melissa Coady from Tighe & Bond explained the project stating work would occur within Riverfront Area, Buffer Zone and Terrace Escarpment Soils. Ms. Coady explained that none of the area was within mapped area for rare species. She also explained that Mass. DEP had comments with regard to exemptions and work that in their opinion was not exempt. The Commission discussed the proposal and it was their opinion that the work was within existing ROW and was exempt because it was maintaining existing utility infrastructure. The Commission voted to issue a Negative 5 Determination.

Motion to approve with a Negative 5 Determination was made by Charles Payne and seconded by Jessica Dzwonkoski. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Jessica Dzwonkoski	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

Item 2: (Continued from February 1, February 15 and March 15, 2017) (Please refer to information provided to you prior to the February 1, 2017 hearing)NOI for the placement of stone caps over existing tar patches associated with an historic gas plant in Holyoke. Location: Connecticut River – Stanley Berchulski Fisherman’s Access (Syrek St.) Applicant: Paul Boison, HWP Company, an Eversource Energy Company, P.O. Box 270 Hartford, CT 06141

Notes: The Applicant requested continuance to May 3, 2017.

Motion to continue was made by Celeste Donovan and seconded by Jessica Dzwonkoski. Vote was 5-0 to continue.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair			X	
Jessica Dzwonkoski			X	
Celeste Donovan			X	
Charles Payne			X	
Nathan Moreau			X	

Item 3: Amendment to City of Chicopee Wetlands Regulations Chapter 272-10.82 Buffer Zones. Full text available in the Department of Planning and Conservation, City Hall Annex, 4th Floor, 274 Front St. Chicopee, MA.

Notes: Lee Pouliot explained the proposed amendment. He explained that the amendment would give the Conservation Commission a way to allow limited work to occur within Buffer Zones that currently is not allowed due to lack of a waiver process. The amendment would allow, at the discretion of the Commission, certain types of work within Buffer Zone if the Commission’s opinion is there will be no adverse effect on the resource area.

Motion to approve was made by Jessica Dzwonkoski and seconded by Nathan Moreau. Vote was 5-0 to approve.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Jessica Dzwonkoski	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

Item 4a: 133-317 - Extension Permit for Order of Conditions for Morgan Circle Parcel A. Original Order of Conditions was issued September 17, 2014 and is due to expire On September 17, 2017.

Notes: Planning Staff explained to the Commission that the Applicant requested an Extension of an OOC for one year in anticipation of not having the site work completed before the current expiration date of September 17, 2017. The Commission voted to approve the requested extension. The new expiration date is September 17, 2018.

Motion to approve was made by Celeste Donovan and seconded by Nathan Moreau. Vote was 5-0 to approve the extension of the OOC by one year to September 17, 2018.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Jessica Dzwonkoski	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

Item 4b: 133-318 - Extension Permit for Order of Conditions for Morgan Circle Lot 6. Original Order of Conditions was issued September 17, 2014 and is due to expire On September 17, 2017.

Notes: Planning Staff explained to the Commission that the Applicant requested an Extension of an OOC for one year in anticipation of not having the site work completed before the current expiration date of September 17, 2017. The Commission voted to approve the requested extension. The new expiration date is September 17, 2018.

Motion to approve was made by Nathan Moreau and seconded by Jessica Dzwonkoski. Vote was 5-0 to approve the extension of the OOC by one year to September 17, 2018.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Jessica Dzwonkoski	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

Item 5: Certificate of Compliance for 200 Lambert Terrace NOI file # 13-003 Order of Conditions issued September 18, 2013.

Notes: Planning Staff reported that they had visited the site and was not convinced that adequate stabilization had been achieved on the slope and erosion was still occurring. The Applicant disagreed that there was continuing erosion. The Commission agreed to do a site visit prior to the next scheduled meeting on May 3, 2017 to determine if adequate stabilization has been achieved prior to granting a Certificate of Compliance. If the Commission is not satisfied with the level of stabilization they would have to issue an Enforcement Order for the Applicant to complete necessary work since the original OOC has expired. The Commission voted to continue the hearing to May 3, 2017 in order to have time to do a site visit and allow vegetation to begin growing so they could determine the level of compliance achieved.

Motion to continue was made by Jessica Dzwonkoski and seconded by Celeste Donovan. Vote was 5-0 to continue to May 3, 2017.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair			X	
Jessica Dzwonkoski			X	
Celeste Donovan			X	
Charles Payne			X	
Nathan Moreau			X	

Item 6: Minutes from February 1, 2017

Motion to approve was made by Nathan Moreau and seconded by Charles Payne. Vote was 5-0 to approve

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Jessica Dzwonkoski	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

Item 7: SIGN BILLS

Notes: Planning Staff had one bill to be signed.

Item 8: Upcoming Project updates/Discussion

- 645 Front Street – Proposed Dollar General

Notes: Prospective Applicants explained a possible future submission of an NOI for the development of 645 Front Street as a Dollar General store. Planning Staff distributed a letter from the Planning Staff to the prospective Applicant dated March 15, 2017 with regard to the project and how in Staff's opinion the project does not meet current State and local regulations. Commissioners are skeptical if project can work as proposed.

Item 9: Adjournment – Next scheduled meeting is April 19, 2017

Motion to adjourn was made by Jessica Dzwonkoski and seconded by Celeste Donovan. Vote was 5-0 to adjourn.

Member	Approve	Deny	Continue	Abstain
James Reidy, Chair	X			
Jessica Dzwonkoski	X			
Celeste Donovan	X			
Charles Payne	X			
Nathan Moreau	X			

Meeting adjourned at 7:30 PM.